

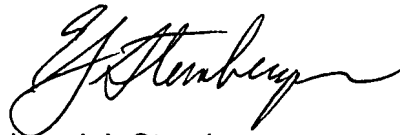
REMARKS

Reconsideration and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 4-8, 12, and 14-16 have been amended. Claims 1 and 13 have been added. Claims 2-12 and 14-20 remain pending.

The allowance of claim 17-20 is noted with thanks.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 5, 7-10, 12 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. To place this application in condition for allowance, claims 2, 5, 8 and 12 have been rewritten in independent format, including the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent format, including the subject matter of claims 1 and 6. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent format, including the subject matter of claim 13. Thus, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Stemberger', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward J. Stemberger
Reg. No. 36,017
Tel. No. 202.261.1014
Fax No. 202.887.0336

Customer No. 20736